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COMIC BOOK SECTION

ACTION Mystery ADVENTURE

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1942

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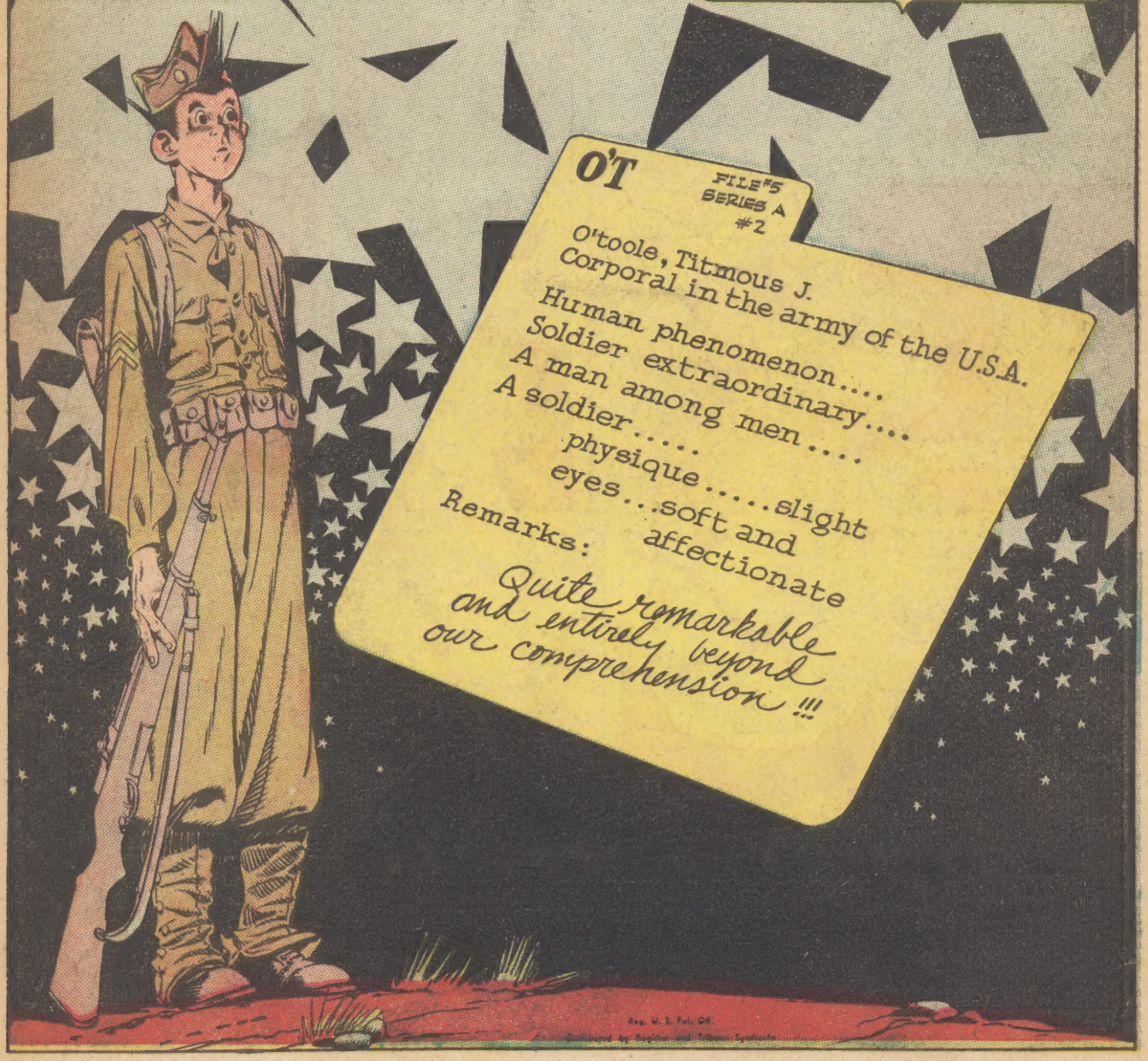
The SPIRIT

by Will Eisner

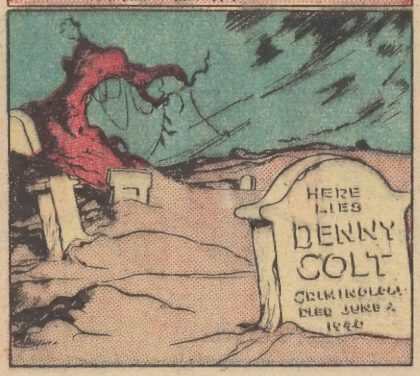
Army Operas No. 2

FROM THE FILES OF THE KITCHEN POLICE...

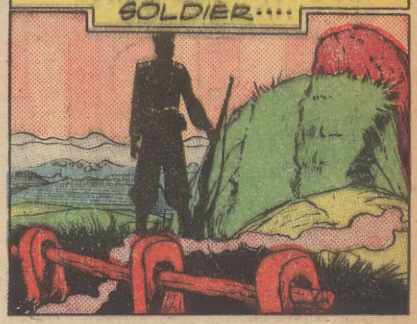


JUST NORTH OF CENTRAL CITY LIES OLD WILDWOOD CEMETERY, A BLEAK GNARLED AREA ABANDONED TO THE ELEMENTS ... FORGOTTEN BY THE BUSY PEOPLE IN THE SHINING METROPOLIS TO THE SOUTH.....

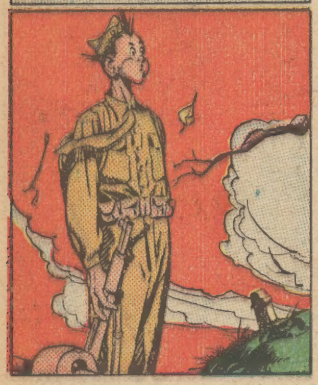
IT IS HERE, DEEP UNDERGROUND, THAT THE SPIRIT HAS BUILT HIS HIDEOUT, A HOME AND LABORATORY FROM WHICH HE FIGHTS CRIME AND CRIMINALS, WHO OPERATE BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LAW....



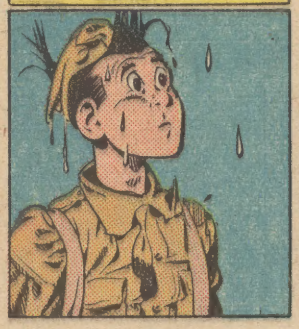
IT IS LATE APRIL ... AND THE OLD FACE OF WILDWOOD SEEMS TO HAVE REGAINED SOME OF ITS YOUTH ..... ON THE EDGE OF THE OLD ROAD THAT CUTS THROUGH THE CEMETERY, A SOLITARY FIGURE STANDS OUTLINED AGAINST THE DAWN SKY ... IT IS A SOLDIER....



ALL DAY HE REMAINS MOTIONLESS AS A STATUE .... UNMOVING, AS WIND DRIVEN TWIGS JOSTLE AGAINST HIM AND HURRY ON....

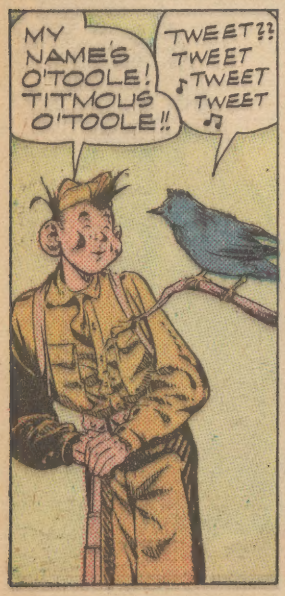


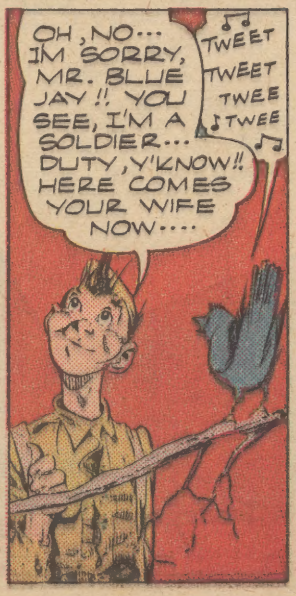
ALL NIGHT... DAMPENED BY THE MORNING DEW, AND SOAKED BY THE RAIN OF THE FOLLOWING DAY, HE STANDS MOTIONLESS IN SOLDIERLY CALM....



BELOW ... IN THE SPIRIT'S SECRET HIDEOUT, EBONY, HIS SOLE COMPANION AND FAITHFUL VALET, POINTS BEWILDEREDLY...

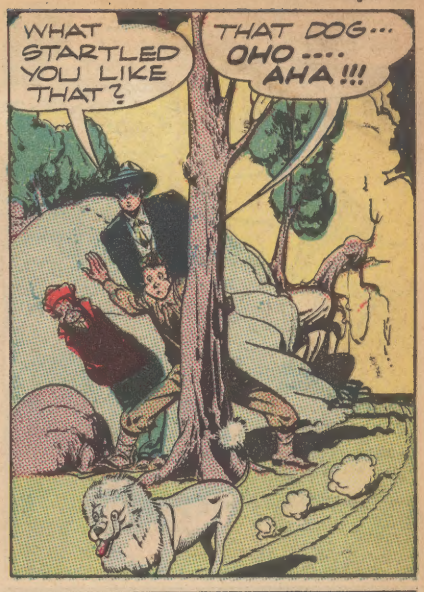
BACK AT THE EDGE OF THE ROAD....





I'M PRIVATE TITMOUS J. O'TOOLE, COAST ARTILLERY.... WHO ARE YOU?
I'M THE SPIRIT.... WHY HAVE YOU BEEN STANDING THERE FOR TWO DAYS?

GOLLY, IS IT THAT LONG?!! SERGEANT GRUFF ORDERED ME TO GUARD THIS ROAD... WE WERE HAVING MANEUVERS.... GEE...GUESS THEY FORGOT ME AND... SHHH!!!

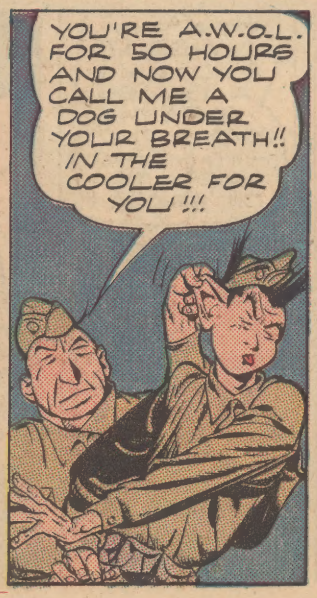

WHAT STARTLED YOU LIKE THAT?
THAT DOG... OHO.... AHA!!!

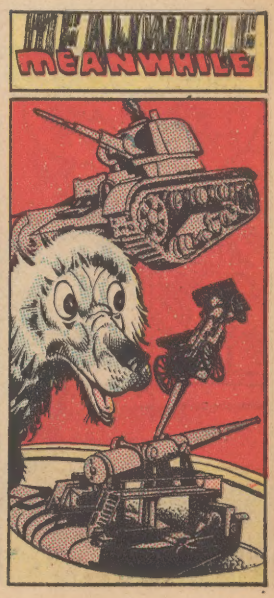
SEE YOU FELLERS LATER...

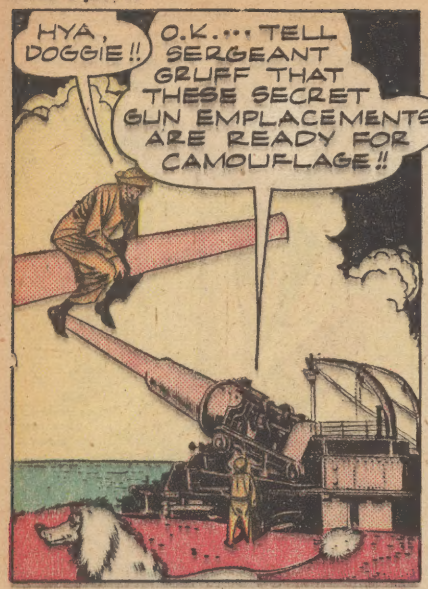
WELL I'LL BE A....
AH DONE TOL' YO', MIST' SPIRIT!! HE'S SQUIRRILY!!!

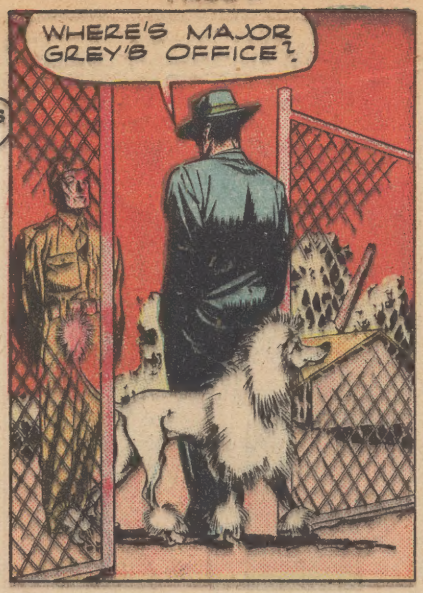
AT CAMP CENTRAL...

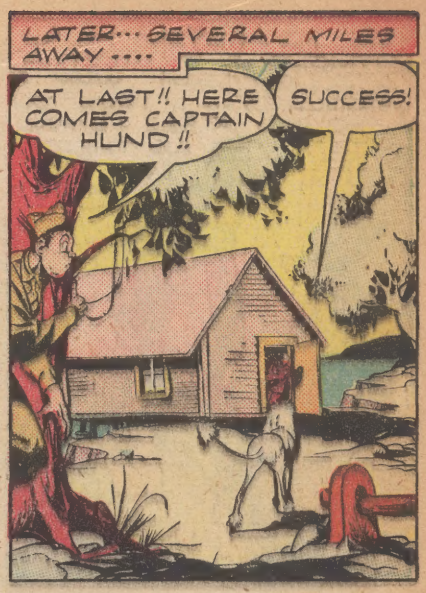
O'TOOLE!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!!
SERGEANT GRUFF...I SHH.... THAT DOG...

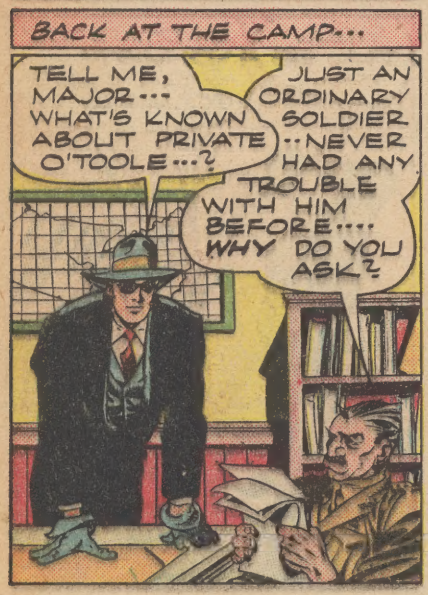

YOU'RE A.W.O.L. FOR 50 HOURS AND NOW YOU CALL ME A DOG UNDER YOUR BREATH!! IN THE COOLER FOR YOU!!!


MEANWHILE


HYA, DOGGIE!!
O.K.... TELL SERGEANT GRUFF THAT THESE SECRET GUN EMPLACEMENTS ARE READY FOR CAMOUFLAGE!!


WHERE'S MAJOR GREY'S OFFICE?


LATER... SEVERAL MILES AWAY....
AT LAST!! HERE COMES CAPTAIN HUND!!
SUCCESS!

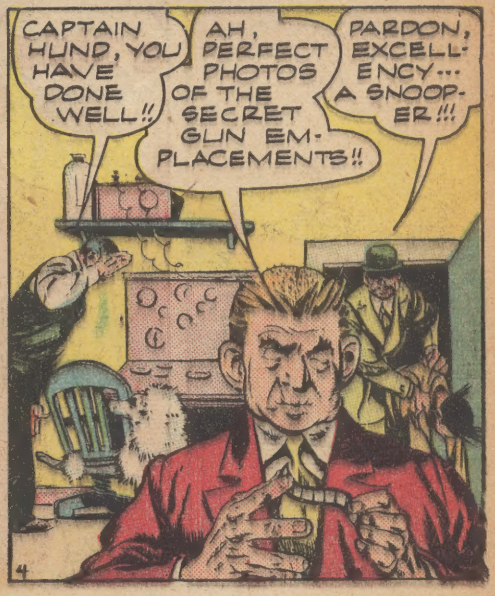

BACK AT THE CAMP...
TELL ME, MAJOR... WHAT'S KNOWN ABOUT PRIVATE O'TOOLE...?
JUST AN ORDINARY SOLDIER..NEVER HAD ANY TROUBLE WITH HIM BEFORE.... WHY DO YOU ASK?

MAJOR...I'D LIKE YOU TO RELEASE O'TOOLE IN MY CUSTODY FOR 24 HOURS!!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! I CANNOT GRANT IT!!
PARDON ME, SIR... PRIVATE O'TOOLE HAS ES-CAPED!!

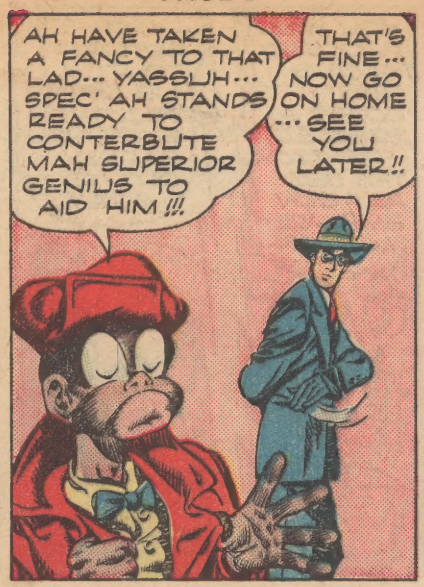
PUFF..PUFF.. THAT O'TOOLE!!! SINCE HE GOT TO CAMP HE'S MADE MY LIFE MISER-ABLE!!
EASY, SER-GEANT GRUFF! I'LL HAVE O'TOOLE COURT MAR-TIALLED!!

MEANWHILE...
GOLLY...THEY'RE REMOVING IT... IT'S A GLASS EYE... NO!! IT'S...

IT'S A TINY CAMERA!! BUILT LIKE A GLASS EYE!! THE WHOLE PLOT HITS ME NOW LIKE A TON OF BRICKS!!!


CAPTAIN HUND, YOU HAVE DONE WELL!!
AH, PERFECT PHOTOS OF THE SECRET GUN EM-PLACEMENTS!!
PARDON, EXCELL-ENCY... A SNOOP-ER!!!

BACK AT CAMP CENTRAL'S GATES....
GOLLY, MIST' SPIRIT, YO' SHO' LOOK WORRIED!!
YES, EBONY!! THAT KID WE MET HAS GOT HIMSELF INTO A MESS OF TROUBLE!! HE'S GOING TO BE COURT-MARTIALLED UNLESS WE HELP HIM!!!

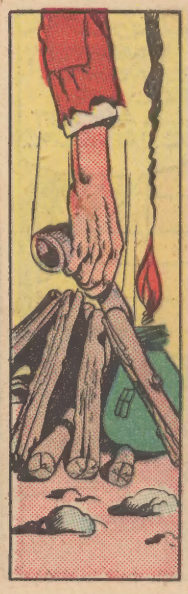

AH HAVE TAKEN A FANCY TO THAT LAD... YASSUH... SPEC' AH STANDS READY TO CONTERBUTE MAH SUPERIOR GENIUS TO AID HIM!!!
THAT'S FINE... NOW GO ON HOME ... SEE YOU LATER!!

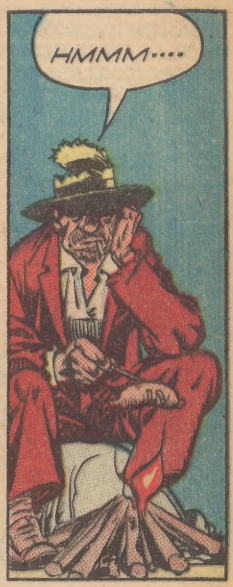
JUMPIN' JITNEYS... THE WAY AH GITS TREATED AROUN' HEAH... SOME DAY AH'M GONNA QUIT DIS JOB!!!

LATER...
SURE MISTER... I'VE SEEN THE DOG YOU DESCRIBE.... IT WENT THAT WAY TOWARD THAT OLD SHACK!!
THANKS, OL' TIMER! HERE!!

THANKS.... HMM....

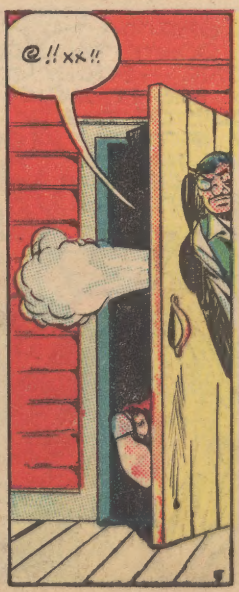
HELLO... THE SPIRIT JUST PASSED.... 8:35.... LOOKING FOR A DOG! ... WHITE... RIGHT... VERY WELL, SIR!!

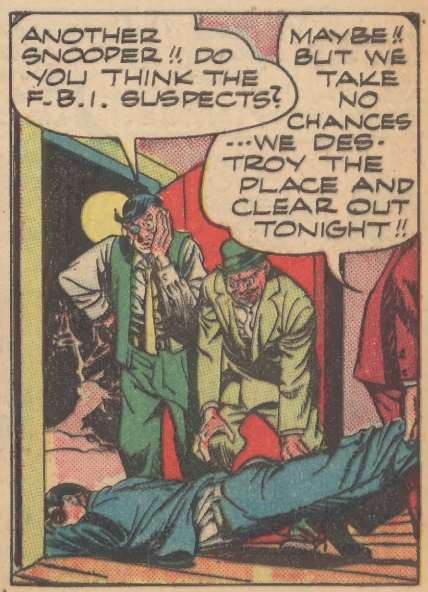



HMMM....

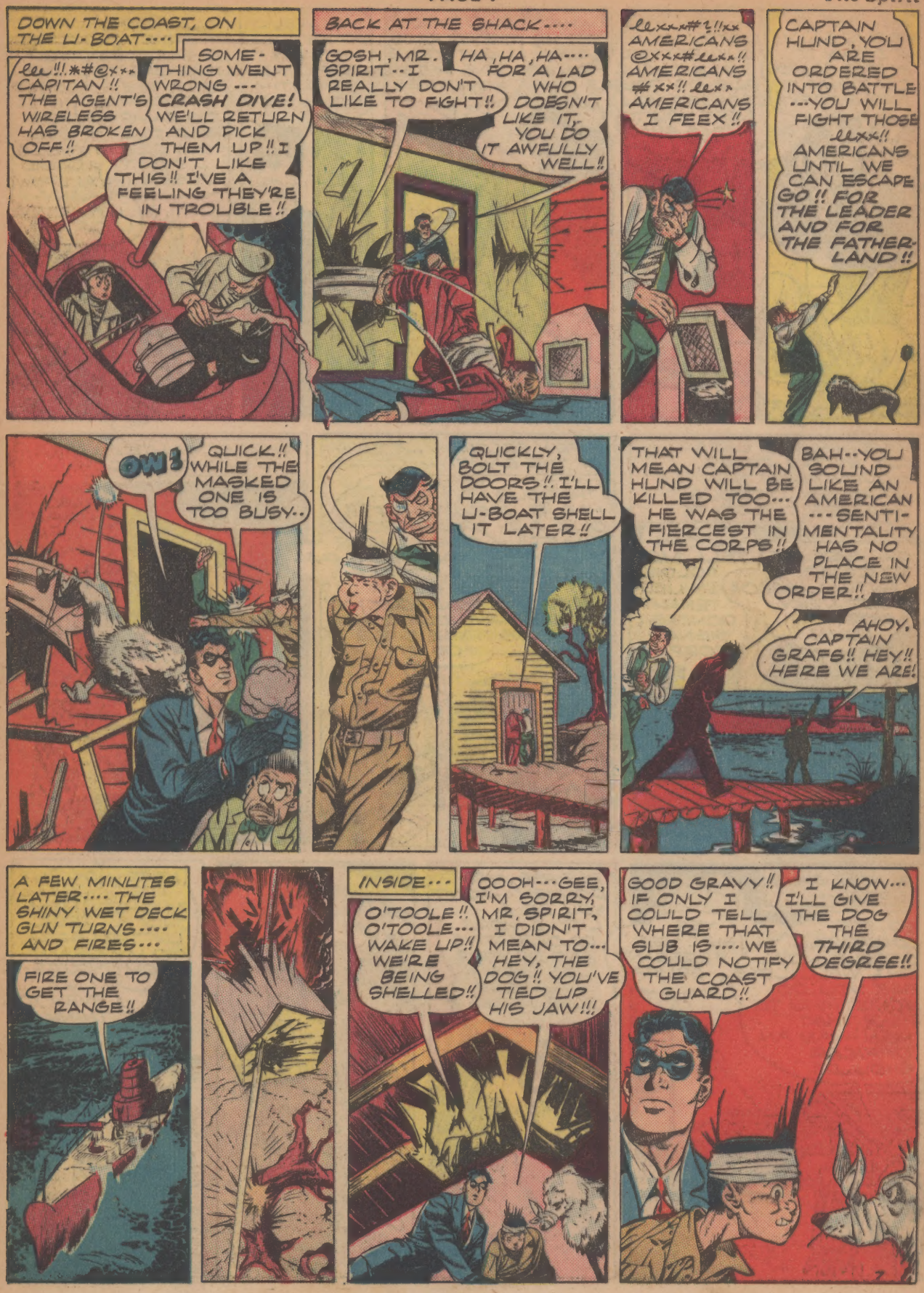
AT THE SHACK...
PAH... 8:45...
HE'S UN-CONSCIOUS AGAIN!!
WE'LL GET NOTHING MORE OUT OF HIM... TOO STUBBORN!! LET US GET READY FOR THE U-BOAT!!

WAIT!!


@!!xx!!


ANOTHER SNOOPER!! DO YOU THINK THE F.B.I. SUSPECTS?
MAYBE!! BUT WE TAKE NO CHANCES ...WE DES-TROY THE PLACE AND CLEAR OUT TONIGHT!!

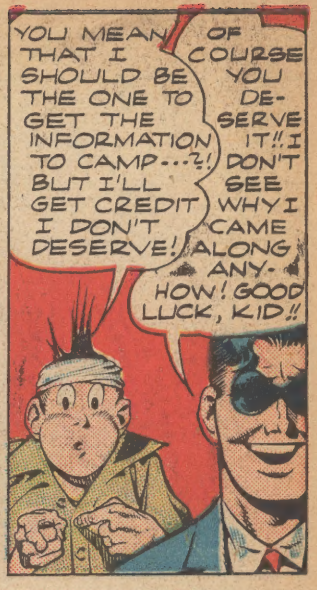
LATER THAT NIGHT...ALONG THE MARSHY COAST A BLACK U-BOAT QUIETLY GLIDES TO THE SURFACE, CUTS ITS MOTORS AND WAITS AT ANCHOR WHILE IT RECEIVES A RADIO MESSAGE....
YOU WILL PROCEED ALONG THE COAST AS DIRECTED ...DESTROY THE SECRET GUN EMPLACEMENTS...
...AND RETURN TO PICK US UP! WE WILL THEN GUIDE YOU SAFELY OUT TO SEA!!
IN THE NEXT ROOM....
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, MR. SPIRIT!! GOSH...THOSE MEN ARE SPIES...THEY HID A MICROSCOPIC CAMERA IN THE DOG'S EYE AND TOOK PICTURES OF A GUN EMPLACEMENT!!
THAT'S WHY YOU FOLLOWED THE WHITE DOG, EH?? TELL ME, TITMOUS, HOW DID YOU KNOW?
AW, SHUCKS... YOU...YOU'D ONLY LAUGH AT ME.... EVERYONE DOES WHEN I TELL 'EM!!
NO... HONESTLY, I WON'T!! TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF!!
GOSH... YOU'RE AN AWFUL NICE GUY, MR. SPIRIT!! O.K....I'LL TELL YUH!!!
I CAN UNDERSTAND BIRD LANGUAGE AND ALL ANIMAL LANGUAGE! I CAN EVEN TALK TO 'EM!!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT WHEN I SAW YOU TALK TO THE BIRD...BUT I DIDN'T DARE BELIEVE IT... I STILL CAN'T FATHOM HOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE WHITE DOG!!
PSHAW... GAWSH... CAHAW... I CAN ALSO READ THEIR MINDS!!
WHAT?
MENTAL TELEPATHY?!!
THERE!! I KNEW YOU'D LAUGH!! GEE, IT'S AWFUL TO BE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER FOLKS!!
GEE, MR. SPIRIT... PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE...GOLLY THEY MIGHT KICK ME OUT OF THE ARMY IF THEY KNEW I HAD THINGS LIKE THAT WRONG WITH ME!!
HA, HA, HA! DON'T WORRY, TITMOUS!! I PROMISE!! LISTEN!! GUNFIRE!!
SHELLFIRE!! ...AND NOT OUR GUNS!! GOLLY, THAT MAY BE THE LONE AXIS RAIDER!! THEY'VE BEEN SEEN ALONG THIS COAST... THOSE SPIES MUST BE CONNECTED WITH 'EM SOMEHOW!!!
RIGHT, KID!! AND WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, NOW!!

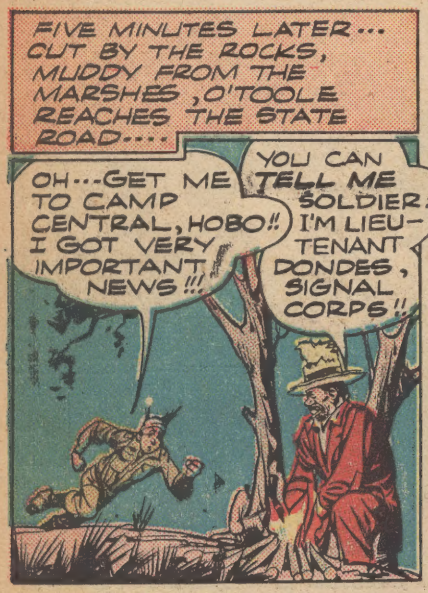

DOWN THE COAST, ON THE U-BOAT....
lee!!.*#@x**
CAPITAN!! THE AGENT'S WIRELESS HAS BROKEN OFF!!
SOMETHING WENT WRONG --- CRASH DIVE! WE'LL RETURN AND PICK THEM UP!! I DON'T LIKE THIS!! I'VE A FEELING THEY'RE IN TROUBLE!!
BACK AT THE SHACK....
GOSH, MR. SPIRIT--I REALLY DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT!!
HA, HA, HA.... FOR A LAD WHO DOESN'T LIKE IT, YOU DO IT AWFULLY WELL!!
lexxx#?!!xx AMERICANS @xxx#lexx!! AMERICANS #xx!! lexx AMERICANS I FEEX!!
CAPTAIN HUND, YOU ARE ORDERED INTO BATTLE ---YOU WILL FIGHT THOSE lexx!! AMERICANS UNTIL WE CAN ESCAPE GO!! FOR THE LEADER AND FOR THE FATHERLAND!!
OWI
QUICK!! WHILE THE MASKED ONE IS TOO BUSY..
QUICKLY, BOLT THE DOORS!! I'LL HAVE THE U-BOAT SHELL IT LATER!!
THAT WILL MEAN CAPTAIN HUND WILL BE KILLED TOO... HE WAS THE FIERCEST IN THE CORPS!!
BAH--YOU SOUND LIKE AN AMERICAN ---SENTIMENTALITY HAS NO PLACE IN THE NEW ORDER!!
AHOY, CAPTAIN GRAFS!! HEY!! HERE WE ARE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER.... THE SHINY WET DECK GUN TURNS.... AND FIRES...
FIRE ONE TO GET THE RANGE!!
INSIDE...
O'TOOLE!! O'TOOLE... WAKE UP!! WE'RE BEING SHELLED!!
OOOH---GEE, I'M SORRY, MR. SPIRIT, I DIDN'T MEAN TO... HEY, THE DOG!! YOU'VE TIED UP HIS JAW!!!
GOOD GRAVY!! IF ONLY I COULD TELL WHERE THAT SUB IS.... WE COULD NOTIFY THE COAST GUARD!!
I KNOW... I'LL GIVE THE DOG THE THIRD DEGREE!!

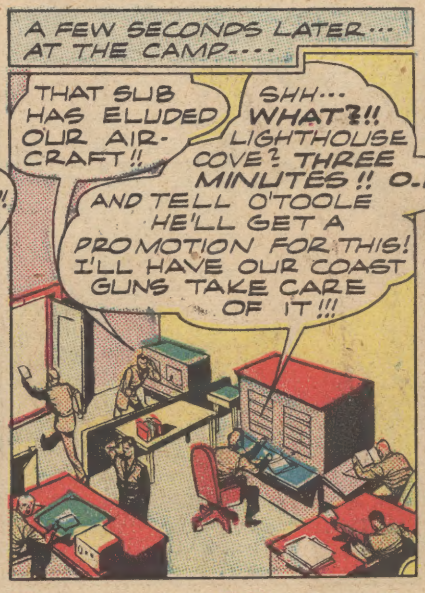
HA...THIS IS SEEMS SILLY!! IF I SAW IT IN THE COMICS I'D THINK IT WAS GOOFY!!
...NOW LISTEN YOU.. YOU'D BETTER TALK!! YOUR FRIENDS DOUBLE CROSSED YOU!! ...LEFT YOU TO DIE IN THIS SHACK WITH US!!
GRR.. ARF!

WHAT DID HE SAY?
SAID THAT THEY'D PASS LIGHTHOUSE COVE IN TEN MINUTES!!

..OH, WELL, I'D BETTER NOT TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT... GO AHEAD!!


YOU MEAN THAT I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GET THE INFORMATION TO CAMP...?! BUT I'LL GET CREDIT I DON'T DESERVE!
OF COURSE YOU DESERVE IT!! I DON'T SEE WHY I CAME ALONG ANYHOW! GOOD LUCK, KID!!

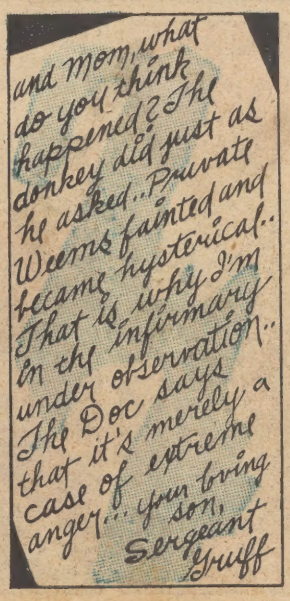

FIVE MINUTES LATER... CUT BY THE ROCKS, MUDDY FROM THE MARSHES, O'TOOLE REACHES THE STATE ROAD....
OH...GET ME TO CAMP CENTRAL, HOBO!! I GOT VERY IMPORTANT NEWS!!!
YOU CAN TELL ME SOLDIER!! I'M LIEUTENANT DONDES, SIGNAL CORPS!!


A FEW SECONDS LATER... AT THE CAMP....
THAT SUB HAS ELUDED OUR AIRCRAFT!!
SHH... WHAT?!! LIGHTHOUSE COVE? THREE MINUTES!! O.K. AND TELL O'TOOLE HE'LL GET A PROMOTION FOR THIS! I'LL HAVE OUR COAST GUNS TAKE CARE OF IT!!!

THREE MINUTES LATER... LIGHTHOUSE COVE...
BOOM

A FEW DAYS LATER...
SO, IT'S CORPORAL O'TOOLE, NOW, EH? WELL, LET'S SEE YOU DO SOMETHING TO HELP THAT MAN...AS AN OFFICER SHOULD!!
YES, SIR!! YES, SERGEANT GRUFF!!

PLEASE, MR. DONKEY...WON'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CO-OPERATIVE AND DO YOUR JOB LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HERE?


and Mom, what do you think happened? The donkey did just as he asked.. Private Weems fainted and became hysterical.. That is why I'm in the infirmary under observation.. The Doc says that it's merely a case of extreme anger... you bring son, Sergeant Gruff

HERE... IT'S FINISHED! ONLY A LETTER TO MY MOM!!
OK., BUT REMEMBER, SERGEANT... YOU'RE NOT EVEN TO THINK OF O'TOOLE TILL YOU'RE RESTED!!

Klaus Nordling
LADY LUCK
BRENDA BANKS, IDLE SOCIETY GIRL, FINDS MORE PURPOSE TO HER LIFE AS THE ELUSIVE, FABULOUS LADY LUCK....

BANK
BANK
BANK
CITY BANK
BANK

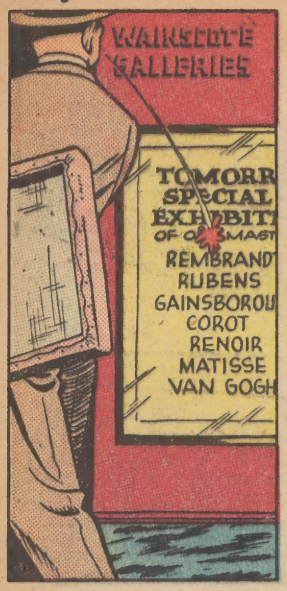
YA KNOW, BOYS, I AIN'T HAPPY!! HHHHH.... NAW... I WANNA PAINT!!! DAT'S WHAT I WANNA BE, AN ART-TIST!!

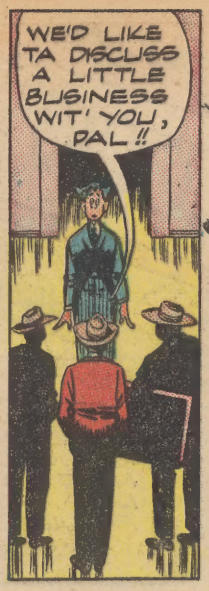
YOU HOID WHAT I SAID!! YOU BOIDS AIN'T SPIRICHUAL, LIKE ME!! GWAN... DO LIKE I SAY.... BUY ME SOME BRUSHES AN' ERL PAINTS!!
O.K., O.K!!

PAINTIN' FER MAD APRIL

HEY!! WE AIN'T OINED ANY CASH FER MONT'S!! WHY DON'T WE SELL THE BOSS'S PITCHERS?

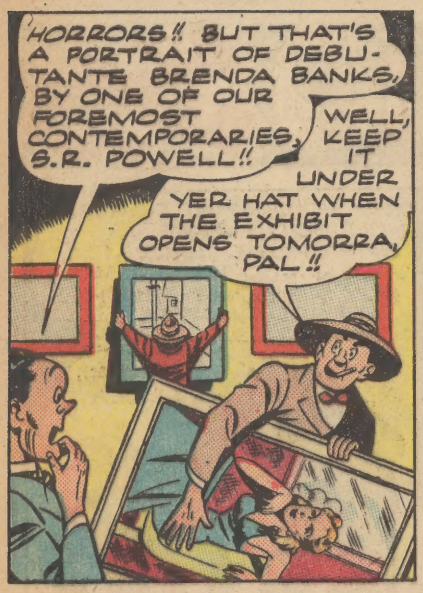
AH, YA GOTTA BE FAMOUS TO GET IN DEM GALLERIES!!
YE-E-EAAH?? MAYBE WE CAN DO A LITTLE PERSUADIN'!!


WAINSCOTE GALLERIES
TOMORR SPECIAL EXHIBIT OF OUR MAST
REMBRANDT
RUBENS
GAINSBOROU
COROT
RENOIR
MATISSE
VAN GOGH


WE'D LIKE TA DISCUSS A LITTLE BUSINESS WIT' YOU, PAL!!

BUT I CAN'T HANG THAT CANVAS HERE! THESE ARE ALL MASTERS!!
WOTTA WE CARE 'BOUT DIS GUY "MASTERS"? WE'RE PROMOTIN' "KNUCKLES KNIEDLER", SEE?

DERE'S A PITCHER THE SAME SIZE... HANG UP THE BOSS'S PITCHER IN ITS PLACE!!

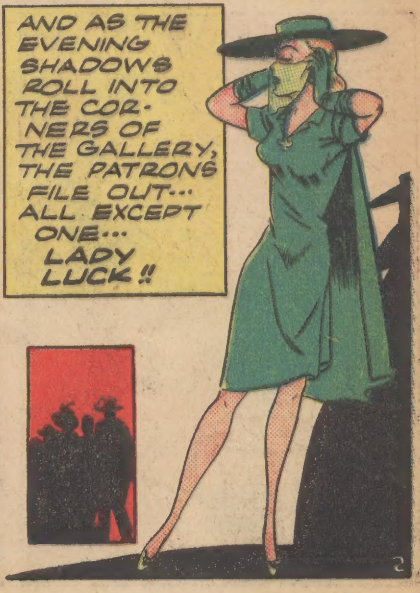

HORRORS!! BUT THAT'S A PORTRAIT OF DEBUTANTE BRENDA BANKS, BY ONE OF OUR FOREMOST CONTEMPORARIES, S.R. POWELL!!
WELL, KEEP IT UNDER YER HAT WHEN THE EXHIBIT OPENS TOMORRA, PAL!!

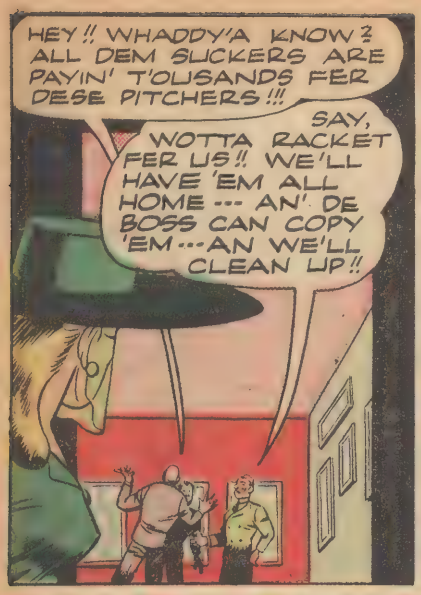
THE NEXT DAY..
SUCH FEELIN'.. SUCH VOIVE!!
PSST... C'MON, SLUG, KEEP BARKIN'!!!
LOOK... WE FINALLY GOT SOMEONE INTERESTED... A GOIL!!
YEAH... IT'S A WERITABLE POIL OF ART!!
124

NO... I'M BUYING THE PORTRAIT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HANGING HERE... WHERE IS IT??
OH, DIS ONE'S JUS' AS GOOD, LADY!!

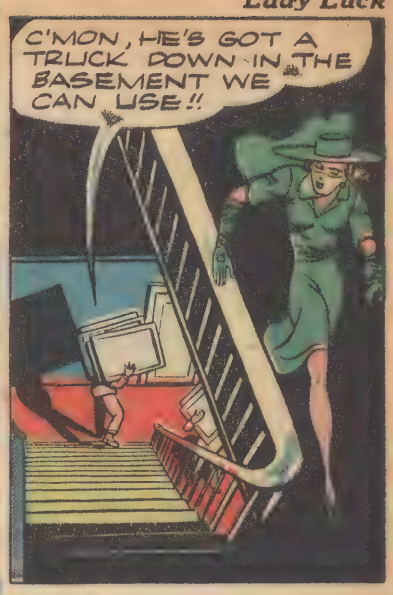
BUT IT WAS A PORTRAIT OF ME!!
OH, YOU'RE BRENDA BANKS?
OH, YES, MA'M... WE'LL DELIVER DAT TO YOUSE IN THE MORNIN'! ER... HOW MUCH WAS YOU PAYIN' FER IT??

HMM... NOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PORTRAIT? I GUESS IT'S UP TO LADY LUCK TO FIND IT!!

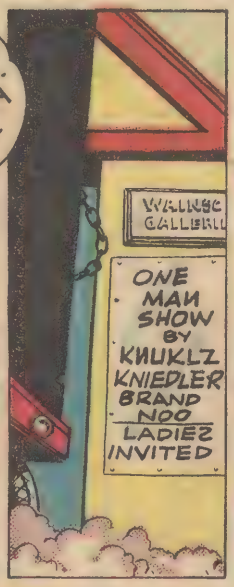

AND AS THE EVENING SHADOWS ROLL INTO THE CORNERS OF THE GALLERY, THE PATRONS FILE OUT... ALL EXCEPT ONE... LADY LUCK!!

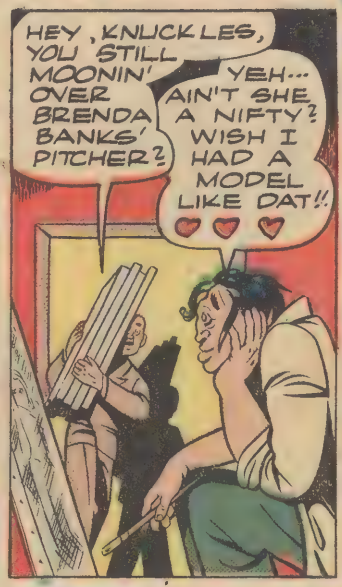

HEY!! WHADDY'A KNOW? ALL DEM SUCKERS ARE PAYIN' T'OUSANDS FER DESE PITCHERS!!!
SAY, WOTTA RACKET FER US!! WE'LL HAVE 'EM ALL HOME --- AN' DE BOSS CAN COPY 'EM --- AN WE'LL CLEAN UP!!

OH, DEAR!! YOU CAN'T STRIP MY WALLS BARE!!
STOP WORRYIN'!! WE'LL HANG UP THE BOSS'S PITCHERS!!
YOU'LL HAVE A BRAN' NEW SHOW!!


C'MON, HE'S GOT A TRUCK DOWN IN THE BASEMENT WE CAN USE!!

STEP ON IT, SLUG!! WE'RE LOADED UP!!
AH... WAIT A WHILE... I GOTTA DRAW A NEW SIGN!!

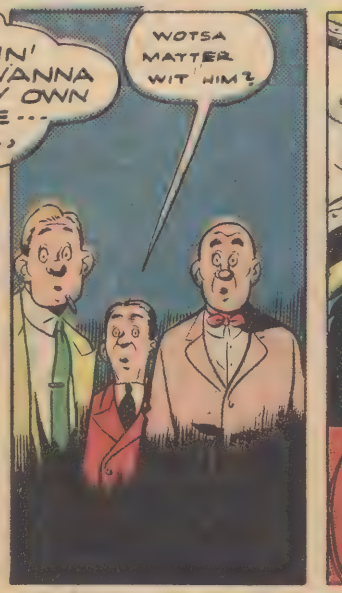

ONE MAN SHOW BY KNUKLZ KNIEDLER BRAND NOO LADIEZ INVITED

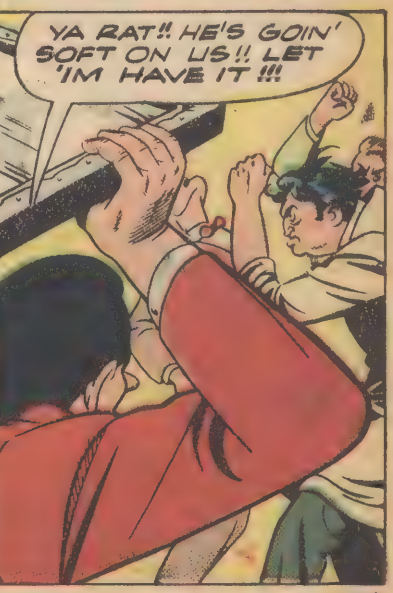

HEY, KNUCKLES, YOU STILL MOONIN' OVER BRENDA BANKS' PITCHER?
YEH... AIN'T SHE A NIFTY? WISH I HAD A MODEL LIKE DAT!!

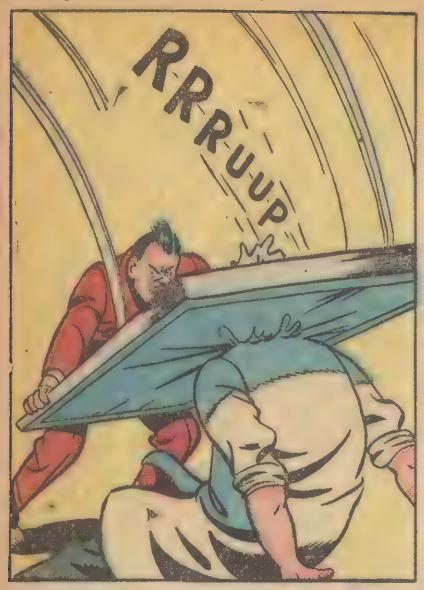
WELL... WE SOLD IT!! YA SOITINLY PICKED A LULU OF A RACKET, BOSS!!
YE.... HUH?? I DON' WANNA SELL IT!! I WAN IT!

YA CAN COPY ALL DESE ODDER PITCHERS, BOSS... WE'LL SELL HUN'REDS OF 'EM!
AH, DEY SMELL!! HE CAN FIX 'EM UP EVEN BETTER!!

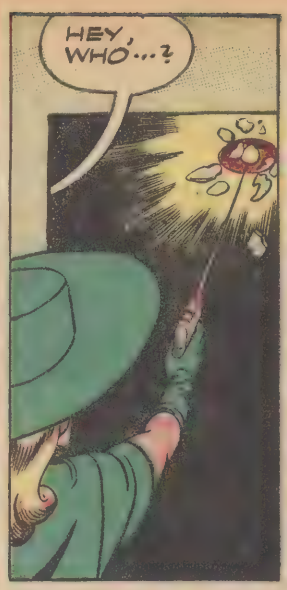
SHADDAP!! I AIN'T COPYIN' NUTTIN'!! I WANNA EXPRESS MY OWN SOUL --- SEE --- I'M SOULFUL, SEE??


WOTSA MATTER WIT' HIM?


YA RAT!! HE'S GOIN' SOFT ON US!! LET 'IM HAVE IT!!!

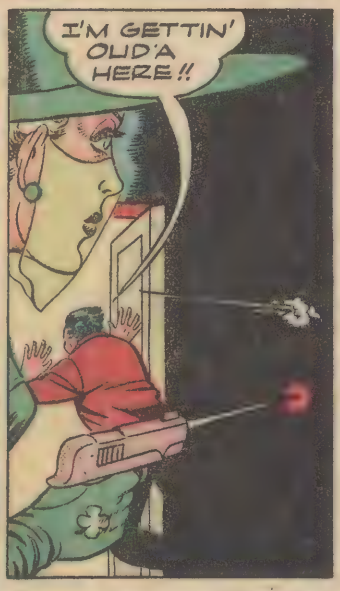

RRRUUP

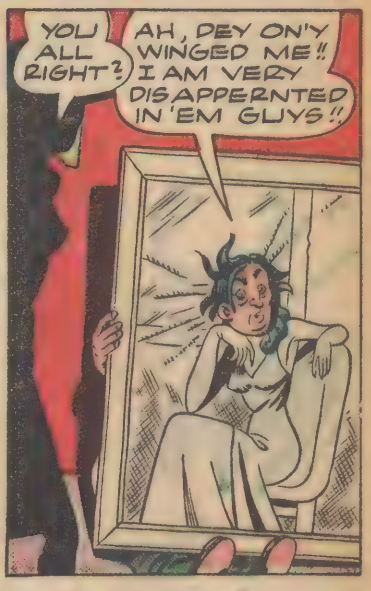
THIS'LL SOFTEN YA UP SOME MORE, "BOSS"!!


HEY, WHO...?

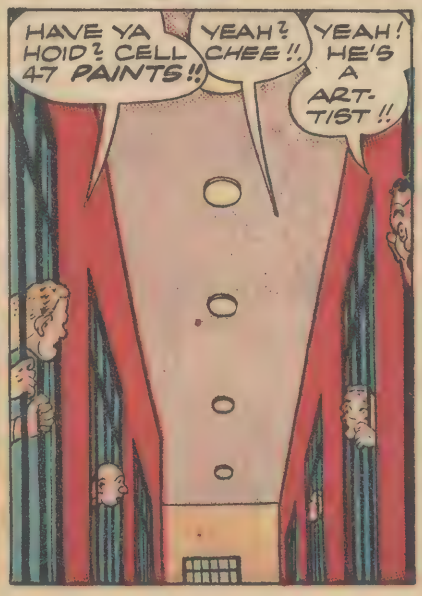
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS??

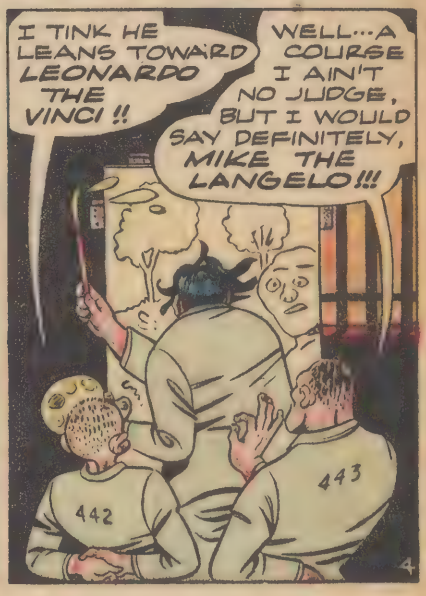
WHAT'S GOIN' ON? WHO'S SHOOTIN' WHO? OOF!!


I'M GETTIN' OUD'A HERE!!


YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH, DEY ON'Y WINGED ME!! I AM VERY DISAPPERNTED IN 'EM GUYS!!

YOU THE ONE WHICH WANTED TO BUY DAT PITCHER? AH... DON' WORRY... I'LL PAINT A BETTER ONE... IN A BATHIN' SUIT!!
THANKS! YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO PAINT IN JAIL, KNUCKLES!!


HAVE YA HOID? CELL 47 PAINTS!!
YEAH? CHEE!!
YEAH! HE'S A ART-TIST!!


I TINK HE LEANS TOWARD LEONARDO THE VINCI!!
WELL... A COURSE I AIN'T NO JUDGE, BUT I WOULD SAY DEFINITELY, MIKE THE LANGELO!!!
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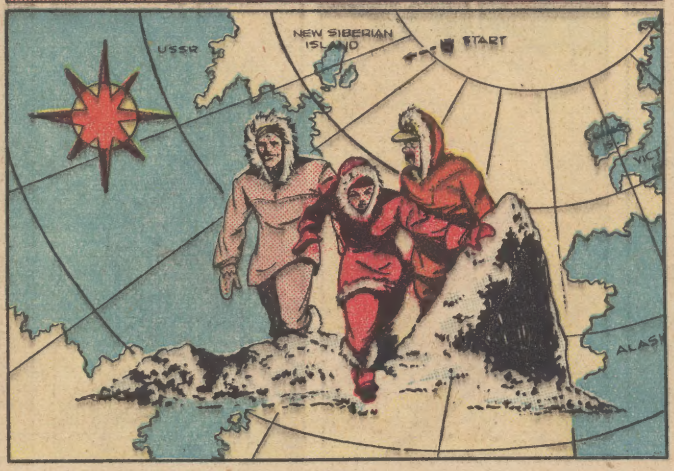
MR MYSTIC

HELD PRISONERS IN A FANTASTIC CITY NEAR THE NORTH POLE, MR. MYSTIC AND LYDIA ARE HELPED TO ESCAPE BY THEIR STRANGE CAPTOR, WHEN THE PLACE IS DESTROYED..

by S.R. POWELL

REALIZING THE ALMOST HOPELESS JOURNEY BEFORE THEM, THE THREE PEOPLE GRIMLY SET OUT... STUMBLING, SLIDING, SLIPPING, THEY PLOD FOR HOURS OVER THE FROZEN WASTES..

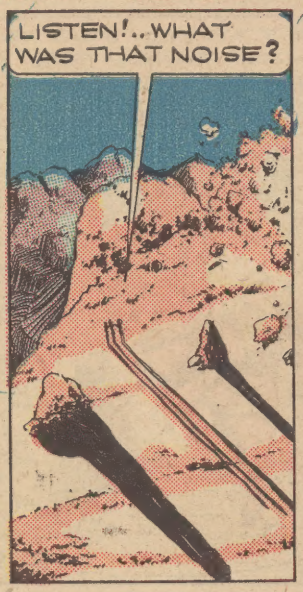


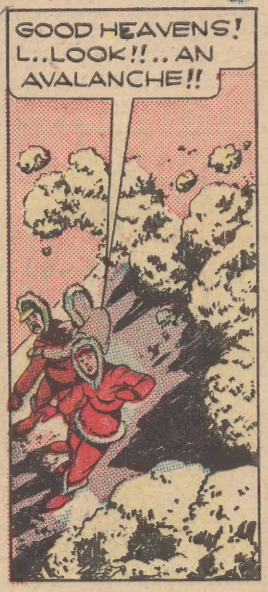
WHAT YOU NEED IS..OH!!.. MY..HEAD..!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER!??!

I..I..DON'T KNOW!!.. MY EYES...I..I CAN'T SEE!

SNOW BLINDNESS! THAT'S WHAT YE GOT!!
I..I'LL BE POWER-LESS WITHOUT MY EYES!!
BLARST THE BLARSTED LUCK!!

SLOWED BY MR. MYSTIC'S BLINDNESS, THE TRIO PUSHES ON, HALF-FROZEN AND NEAR STARVATION...


LISTEN!..WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?


GOOD HEAVENS! L..LOOK!!..AN AVALANCHE!!

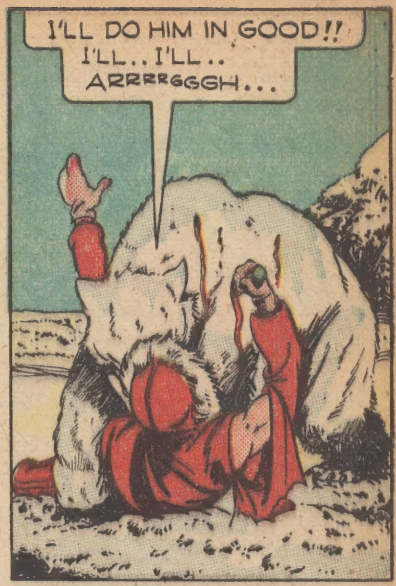
ARE..IS..IS EVERYBODY ALL RIGHT?!
Y..YES..

BLARST IT!! I TWISTED MY BLARSTED ANKLE..I'LL..AWK!! IT'S A POLAR!!
A BEAR?!

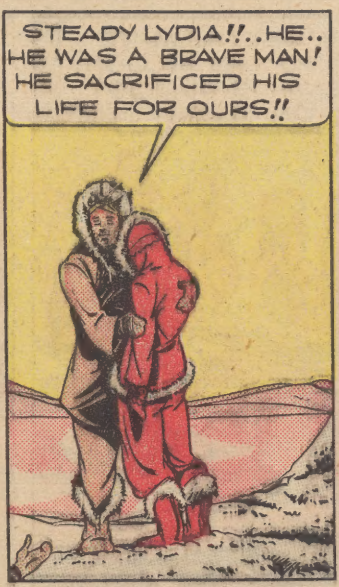
KEEP BACK!! I'LL..I'LL TRY TO STOP IT BY THOUGHT!...WHERE.. WHERE IS IT?

BLARSTED NINNY!!..CAN'T EVEN SEE!! ONE SIDE, MYSTIC!!

I'LL FINISH THIS BLARSTED BEAST!

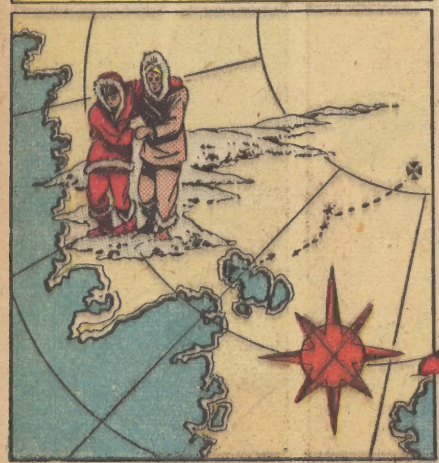

I'LL DO HIM IN GOOD!! I'LL..I'LL.. ARRRRGGGH...

MYSTIC!! HE DID IT!!... HE KILLED THE BEAR, BUT..OH!! HOW HORRIBLE!!


STEADY LYDIA!!..HE.. HE WAS A BRAVE MAN! HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR OURS!!

AT THAT MOMENT IN AN ESKIMO VILLAGE NOT MANY MILES AWAY...

MANEKA, KEOK, GO! GOOD HUNTERS BRING BACK MUCH FOOD!
AYE!

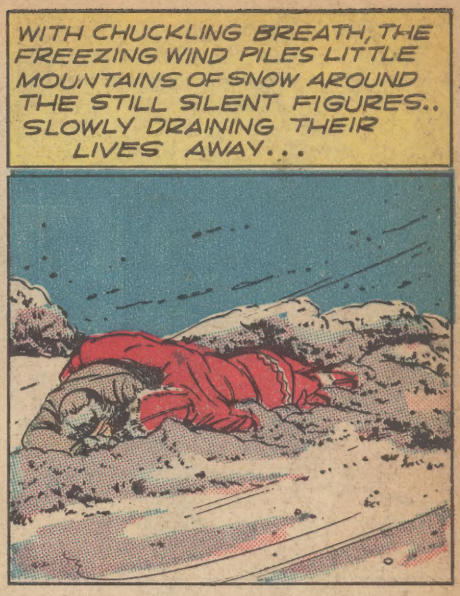

MEANWHILE, MYSTIC AND LYDIA, EXHAUSTED IN MIND AND BODY, STRUGGLE ON, GROWING WEAKER BY THE STEP...

I..I..CAN'T GO ON!! I.... CAN'T!! I CAN'T!!

LYDIA..YOU MUST!! YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!!... YOU..YOU'LL FREEZE !!!
I..I DON'T CARE..I.. OOOOH!!

I..I'VE..GOT TO..GET THROUGH..I..IT..CAN'T B..BE FAR..I..MUST GO ON!

GOT..TO..KEEP..MOVING ..CAN'T..STOP..CAN'T STOP.....


WITH CHUCKLING BREATH, THE FREEZING WIND PILES LITTLE MOUNTAINS OF SNOW AROUND THE STILL SILENT FIGURES.. SLOWLY DRAINING THEIR LIVES AWAY...

KISKA!!..LOOK! YOUR MAN IS BACK! SOMETHING IS WRONG!
KEOK BACK? SO SOON!?

HURRY! GET THE WHITE ONES INTO THE IGLOO!.. DEATH IS ALMOST ON THEM!

THE WOMAN IS ALREADY UNITED WITH HER ANCESTORS.. THE MAN LIVES, BUT HIS CHANCE IS SLIM! GET HERBS!

FOR WEEKS, THE ANCIENT WOMAN EXPERTLY KEEPS THE DELIRIOUS WHITE MAN ALIVE..

THEN, ONE DAY THE FEVER LIFTS AND HE AWAKENS...
W..WHERE AM I?

YOU ESKIMO TOWN..YOU VER' SICK..YOU KEEP EYES CLOSE!.. THEY WELL IN WEEK..BUT WHO YOU?

WHO AM I?..WHY.. I..I...I DON'T KNOW!!..I CAN'T REMEMBER!!